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May 4, 2005

TO: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley 
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – COUNSELING
AND RESEARCH-MASADA INC., HAVELOCK, HOKAMA, KNOLL
HEIGHTS, LLOYD MANOR, NEWELL, ORLEANS, PENN, PROSPECT,
RALSTON AND SOUTH SHORE GROUP HOMES**

We have completed a review of Havelock, Hokama, Knoll Heights, Lloyd Manor, Newell, Orleans, Penn, Prospect, Ralston and South Shore Group Homes (Group Home or Agency) operated by the Counseling and Research-Masada, Inc. Each Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Havelock, Knoll Heights, Newell, Orleans, Penn, Prospect, Ralston and South Shore Group Homes are six-bed facilities that provide care for boys ages 13-17 years; Lloyd Manor is a six-bed facility that provides care for girls ages 13-17 years; and Hokama Group Home is a six-bed facility that provides care for boys ages 13-18 years. The residents of all ten Agencies are children who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties.

At the time of the monitoring visit, Havelock House was providing services for three Los Angeles County Probation children, two DCFS children and one San Diego County Probation child. Hokama House Group Home was providing services for six Los Angeles County Probation children. Knoll Heights House was providing services for four Los Angeles County Probation children. Lloyd Manor was providing services for four Los Angeles County Probation children and one DCFS child. Newell House was providing services for three Los Angeles County Probation children and one DCFS child. Orleans House was providing services for five Los Angeles County Probation children and one Los Angeles County DCFS child. Penn House was providing services

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for six Los Angeles County Probation children. Prospect House was providing services for four Los Angeles County Probation children. Ralston House was providing services for five Los Angeles County Probation children. South Shore House was providing services for four Los Angeles County Probation children.

Havelock, Knoll Heights, and Newell House Group Homes are located in the Second District. Hokama, Lloyd Manor, Orleans, Penn, Prospect, Ralston, and South Shore House Group Homes are located in the Fourth District.

The purpose of the review was to determine whether the Agency was providing the services outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covered basic child safety and licensing issues and included an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, facility inspections, and interviews with two children placed in each Group Home at the time of the reviews. Interviews with the residents were designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by the Agency, and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

Summary of Findings

Generally, the Agencies were providing the services outlined in their Program Statement. However, the Agencies need to address various areas where improvements are needed. The Group Homes need to provide residents with an opportunity to choose their own clothing and maintain a life book.

Havelock House Group Home needs to provide all residents with adequate homework and/or cognitive stimulation; provide all residents with the opportunity to participate in the planning of some activities; properly maintain medication logs; and provide all residents with an adequate quantity of clothing.

Hokama House Group Home needs to maintain current report cards/progress reports for each resident; and provide each resident with the minimum base allowance.

Knoll Heights Group Home needs to provide emancipation programs for all age appropriate residents; provide all residents with daily living skills training; provide all residents with the opportunity to participate in the planning of some activities; and properly maintain medication logs.

Lloyd Manor Group Home needs to complete an initial assessment for each resident; maintain current Needs and Services Plans for each resident; document the residents' and their placement workers' participation in the development and modification of the Needs and Services Plans; complete quarterly reports that focus on the goals of the Needs and Services Plans; and maintain current Individualized Education Plans.

Newell House Group Home needs to remove all writing from bedroom dresser drawers; properly maintain medication logs; and provide residents with a safe living environment.

Orleans House Group Home needs to provide a computer for the residents' use; document placement workers' participation in the development and update of the Needs and Services Plan; maintain current report cards/progress reports for each resident; provide residents with the opportunity to participate in the planning of activities; properly maintain medication logs; provide residents with reasonable and fair chores; and provide residents with the required minimum base allowance.

Penn House Group Home needs to remove writing from the bedroom closet door; document placement workers' participation in the development and update of the Needs and Services Plan; maintain current report cards/progress reports for each resident; provide residents with reasonable and fair chores; and provide residents with the required minimum base allowance.

Prospect House Group Home needs to provide residents with appropriate bed linens; maintain current report cards/progress reports; provide residents with a sufficient amount of daily educational stimulation; and provide residents with the required minimum base allowance.

Ralston House Group Home needs to complete an initial assessment for each resident; maintain current Needs and Services Plans for each resident; provide residents with a sufficient amount of daily educational stimulation; provide each resident the opportunity to plan activities; properly maintain medication logs; and provide residents with the required minimum base allowance.

South Shore House Group Home needs to repair the plumbing in the downstairs bathroom; provide residents with a computer; document the placement workers' participation in the development and update of the Needs and Services Plan; maintain current report cards/progress reports for each resident; provide residents with a sufficient amount of daily educational stimulation; follow the recreation schedule; allow residents to participate in the planning of activities; properly maintain medication logs; provide each resident with reasonable and fair chores; and provide residents with the required minimum base allowance.

Attached is a detailed report of the review findings.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. The Agency's management is required to provide a corrective action plan to the Children Services Group Home Ombudsman within 20 business days from the date of this report. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:bg

Attachment

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS
Paul Higa, Chief Probation Officer
George Igi, Executive Director, Counseling and Research, Masada Homes
Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**Counseling and Research-Masada Homes
Havelock House
12213 Havelock Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90230
Phone: (310) 328-4813
License No.: 198200558
Rate Classification Level: 12**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Havelock Group Home is a large home located in a quiet residential community. The Group Home is clean, spacious, and comfortable. The Group Home is well maintained, nicely landscaped, and blends well with the other homes on the block. There were no observable safety hazards.

The interior of the Group Home is generally neat and clean. The décor provides a home-like atmosphere. The common rooms are nicely decorated and maintained. The resident bedrooms are spacious, comfortable, and personalized to each child's desire with posters, pictures, and knick-knacks.

The Group Home maintains age-appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a VCR/DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

There is a sufficient supply of frozen food, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit. The food is accessible, appropriately dated, and properly stored.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The residents meet the Agency's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Residents received a complete initial diagnostic assessment after being admitted into the Agency's program.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) are current, realistic, measurable, and time specific. There is documentation to support the placement workers' participation in the development and update of the NSPs.

The quarterly report for one resident is current, comprehensive, and appropriately focuses on the goals of the NSP. The other resident has not been in the Group Home long enough to require a quarterly report.

The residents are provided with psychological testing, emotional and developmental counseling as required by the Program Statement. Case files reflect adequate documentation to show evidence of residents receiving regular individual and/or group therapy.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews****Sample size for resident interviews: Two****Comments:**

The residents are attending school. One record contained current report cards and/or progress reports. The other resident was not yet due to receive a report card and/or progress report. Residents reported that the Group Home does not provide them with a sufficient amount of additional educational stimulation away from school on a daily basis.

The Agency's program includes the development of residents' daily living skills. The residents are involved in the planning and preparation phase of meals. Hygiene care is discussed as needed.

Residents are offered the opportunity to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

The residents are not employed.

Recommendation

1. **Masada Homes management provide each resident with a sufficient amount of daily educational stimulation as required by the Statement of Work.**

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The Agency provides its residents opportunities to participate in recreational activities. The residents expressed satisfaction with the recreational activities and stated that the recreation schedules are followed.

The Group Home utilizes local community organizations for recreational and program resources. One resident reported that he participates in planning some of the activities. The other resident reported that he does not have the opportunity to participate in planning activities. The residents have free time and are able to participate in self-selected activities.

Transportation is provided to and from the activities.

Recommendation

2. **Masada Homes management provide all residents with the opportunity to participate in planning some activities.**

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents for one case file

Comments:

The resident had a current court authorization for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that the child is routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Medication distribution logs are not properly maintained.

Recommendation

- 3. Masada Homes management properly maintain medication distribution logs.**

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment – Resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The residents expressed satisfaction with the Agency and its staff. Residents participate in an initial orientation and the Group Home's policies and procedures are posted. Residents reported that they feel safe in the Group Home and that there is no interference with their daily living functions.

Residents reported satisfaction with the taste of the food and with their ability to participate in menu development. They reported that there is sufficient staff supervision and expressed satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff. Residents feel there is at least one staff member they can easily talk to and trust.

Residents reported that they are assigned chores to complete on a daily basis that are reasonable and not too demanding. Residents are able to have visitors and to make and receive personal telephone calls. They are permitted to contact their workers, attorneys and family members as needed. Residents are able to attend weekly religious services of their choice and feel that the Agency is respectful of their cultural lifestyles. The Agency allows the residents to celebrate holidays.

Residents reported that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Residents are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The Agency provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. The Group Home supplies its residents with the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance. Clothing provided to the residents is of good quality. However, one resident has not been given the opportunity to select his own clothes, and one resident did not have a sufficient quantity of clothing.

The Agency provides residents with the required minimum base allowance, and they are able to increase their allowance according to the Agency's behavioral system. Residents are permitted to spend their allowances as they choose.

The Agency provides residents with adequate personal care items and adequate storage.

Residents are not provided with regular opportunities to maintain photo album/life books.

Recommendations**4. Masada Homes management:**

- a. **Allow residents to choose their own clothes.**
- b. **Provide each resident with an adequate quantity of clothes in accordance with the DCFS clothing standard.**
- c. **Provide residents with the opportunity to maintain life books/photo albums.**

**Counseling & Research Associates - Masada Homes
Hokama House
2139 W. 160th Street
Torrance, CA 90504
Phone: (310) 328-4813
License No.: 198201956
Rate Classification Level: 12**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Hokama Group Home is a large home located on a quiet residential community. The Group Home is clean, spacious, and comfortable. The Group Home is well maintained, nicely landscaped, and blends well with the other homes on the block. There were no observable safety hazards.

The interior of the Group Home is generally neat and clean. The décor provides a home-like atmosphere. The common rooms are nicely decorated and maintained. The resident bedrooms are spacious, comfortable, and personalized to each child's desire with posters, pictures, and knick-knacks.

The Group Home maintains age-appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a VCR/DVD player. There are books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs.

There is a sufficient supply of frozen food, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit. The food is accessible, appropriately dated, and properly stored.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The residents meet the Agency's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Residents received a complete initial diagnostic assessment after being admitted into the Agency's program.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) are current, realistic, measurable, and time specific. There is documentation to support the placement workers' participation in the development and update of the NSPs.

The quarterly report for one resident is current, comprehensive, and appropriately focused on the goals of the NSP. The other resident has not been in the Group Home long enough to require a quarterly report.

The residents are provided with psychological testing, and emotional and developmental counseling as required by the Program Statement. Case files reflect adequate documentation to show evidence of residents receiving regular individual and/or group therapy.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews****Sample size for resident interviews: Two****Comments:**

The residents are attending school. One resident requires and has a current Individualized Education Plan. One record contains current semester report cards and/or progress reports, the other does not. Residents reported that they are provided with a sufficient amount of daily educational stimulation away from school and feel that the Group Home is supportive of their academic progress.

The Agency's program includes the development of residents' daily living skills. The residents are involved in the planning and preparation phase of meals. Hygiene care is discussed as needed and employment preparation encouraged.

Residents are offered the opportunity to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

The residents are not employed.

Recommendation

1. Masada Homes management maintain current report cards and/or progress reports for each resident.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The Agency provides its residents opportunities to participate in recreational activities. The residents expressed satisfaction with the recreational activities and stated that the recreation schedules are followed.

The Group Home utilizes local community organizations for recreational and program resources. The residents reported that they participate in planning some of the activities. The residents have free time and are able to participate in self-selected activities.

Transportation is provided to and from the activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents for one case file

Comments:

The resident has a current court authorization for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that the child is routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment – Resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The residents expressed satisfaction with the Agency and its staff. Residents participate in an initial orientation and the Group Home's policies and procedures are posted. Residents reported that they feel safe in the Group Home and that there is no interference with their daily living functions.

Residents reported satisfaction with the taste of the food and with their ability to participate in menu development. They reported that there is sufficient staff supervision and expressed satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff. Residents feel there was at least one staff member they can easily talk to and trust.

Residents reported that they are assigned chores to complete on a daily basis that are reasonable and not too demanding. Residents are able to have visitors and to make and receive personal telephone calls. They are permitted to contact their workers, attorneys, and family members as needed. Residents are able to attend weekly religious services of their choice and feel that the Agency is respectful of their cultural lifestyles. The Agency allows the residents to celebrate holidays.

Residents reported that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Residents are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The Agency provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. The Group Home supplies its residents with the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance.

Clothing provided to the residents is of good quality and of sufficient quantity. However, the residents are not given the opportunity to select their own clothes.

The Agency does not provide residents with the required minimum base allowance. However, residents are able to increase their allowance according to the Agency's behavioral system. Residents are permitted to spend their allowances as they choose.

The Agency provides residents with adequate personal care items and adequate storage.

Residents are not provided with regular opportunities to maintain photo albums/life books.

Recommendations

2. Masada Homes management:

- a. Allow residents to choose their own clothes.**
- b. Provide residents with the minimum base allowance.**
- c. Provide residents with regular opportunities to maintain photo albums/life books.**

**Counseling and Research-Masada Homes
Knoll Heights House
6049 S. Garth Street
Los Angeles, CA 90056
Phone: (310) 328-4813
License No.: 191601505
Rate Classification Level: 12**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Knoll Heights Group Home is a large home located in a quiet residential community. The Group Home is clean, spacious, and comfortable. The Group Home is well maintained, nicely landscaped, and blends well with the other homes on the block. There were no observable safety hazards.

The interior of the Group Home is generally neat and clean. The décor provides a home-like atmosphere. The common rooms are nicely decorated and maintained. The resident bedrooms are spacious, comfortable and personalized to each child's desire with posters, pictures, and knick-knacks.

The Group Home maintains age-appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a VCR/DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

There is a sufficient supply of frozen food, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit. The food is accessible, appropriately dated, and properly stored.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The residents meet the Agency's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Residents received a complete initial diagnostic assessment after being admitted into the Agency's program.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) are current, realistic, measurable, and time specific. There is documentation to support the placement workers' participation in the development and update of the NSPs.

The residents have not been in the Group Home long enough to require a quarterly report.

The residents are provided with psychological testing, emotional and developmental counseling as required by the Program Statement. Case files reflect adequate documentation to show evidence of residents receiving regular individual and/or group therapy.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews****Sample size for resident interviews: Two****Comments:**

The residents are attending school. One resident requires and has an Individualized Education Plan. One record contains current semester report cards and/or progress reports. The other resident has not been at the school long enough to receive a semester report card and/or progress report. Residents reported that they are provided with a sufficient amount of daily educational stimulation away from school, and they feel that the Group Home is supportive of their academic progress.

The Agency's program includes the development of residents' daily living skills. However, one of the residents reported that he does not receive daily living skills training. One resident reported that he is involved in the planning and preparation phase of meals. Hygiene care is discussed as needed and employment preparation encouraged.

One age-appropriate resident was not offered the opportunity to participate in emancipation and vocational programs.

The residents are not employed.

Recommendations

1. Masada Homes management:

- a. **Provide each resident with daily living skills.**
- b. **Provide age appropriate residents with the opportunity to participate in emancipation and vocational programs.**

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The Agency provides its residents opportunities to participate in recreational activities. The residents expressed satisfaction with the recreational activities and stated that the recreation schedules are followed.

The Group Home utilizes local community organizations for recreational and program resources. One resident participates in the planning of some of the activities. The other resident reported that he does not participate in the planning of activities. The residents have free time and are able to participate in self-selected activities.

Transportation is provided to and from the activities.

Recommendation

- 2. Masada Homes management provide all residents with the opportunity to participate in the planning of activities.**

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents for two case files.

Comments:

The residents had current court authorizations for psychotropic medications. Documentation confirms that the child is routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Medication distribution logs are not properly maintained.

Recommendation

3. Masada Homes management properly maintain medication distribution logs.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment – Resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The residents expressed satisfaction with the Agency and its staff. Residents participate in an initial orientation and the Group Home's policies and procedures are posted. Residents reported that they feel safe in the Group Home and that there is no interference with their daily living functions.

Residents reported satisfaction with the taste of the food and with their ability to participate in menu development. They reported that there is sufficient staff supervision and express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff. Residents feel there was at least one staff member they can easily talk to and trust.

Residents reported that they are assigned chores to complete on a daily basis that are reasonable and not too demanding. Residents are able to have visitors and to make and receive personal telephone calls. They are permitted to contact their workers, attorneys, and family members as needed. Residents are able to attend weekly religious services of their choice, and they feel that the Agency is respectful of their cultural lifestyles. The Agency allows the residents to celebrate holidays.

Residents reported that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Residents are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The Agency provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. The Group Home supplies its residents with the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance. Clothing provided to the residents is of good quality and of sufficient quantity. However, one resident has not been given the opportunity to select his own clothes.

The Agency provides residents with the required minimum base allowance, and they are able to increase according to the Agency's behavioral system. Residents are permitted to spend their allowances as they choose.

The Agency provides residents with adequate personal care items and adequate storage.

Residents are not provided with regular opportunities to maintain photo album/life books.

Recommendations

4. Masada Homes management:

- a. Allow residents to choose their own clothes.**
- b. Provide all residents with regular opportunities to maintain photo albums/life books.**

**Counseling and Research-Masada Homes
Lloyd Manor
6161 West 74th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90045
Phone: (310) 328-4813
License No.: 198201994
Rate Classification Level: 12**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Lloyd Manor Group Home is a large home located in a quiet residential community. The Group Home is clean, spacious, and comfortable. The Group Home is well maintained, nicely landscaped, and blends well with the other homes on the block. There were no observable safety hazards.

The interior of the Group Home is generally neat and clean. The décor provides a home-like atmosphere. The common rooms are nicely decorated and maintained. The resident bedrooms are spacious, comfortable, and personalized to each child's desire with posters, pictures, and knick-knacks.

The Group Home maintains age-appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a VCR/DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

There is a sufficient supply of frozen food, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit. The food is accessible, appropriately dated, and properly stored.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The residents meet the Agency's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Residents did not receive a complete initial diagnostic assessment after being admitted into the Agency's program.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) were not current, realistic, measurable, and time specific. There was no documentation to support the placement workers' participation in the development and update of the NSPs.

The quarterly report for one resident is current and comprehensive. However, it did not appropriately focus on the goals of the NSP. The other resident has not been in the Group Home long enough to require a quarterly report.

The residents are provided with psychological testing, emotional and developmental counseling as required by the Program Statement. Case files reflect adequate documentation to show evidence of residents receiving regular individual and/or group therapy.

Recommendations**1. Masada Homes management:**

- a. **Provide residents with a complete initial diagnostic assessment within 30 days of being admitted into the program.**
- b. **Provide each resident with a current Needs and Service Plan.**
- c. **Provide documentation to show placement workers' participation in the development and update of the Needs and Services Plans.**
- d. **Develop quarterly reports that focus on the goals of the Needs and Services Plans.**

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The residents are attending school. One resident requires but does not have a current

Individualized Education Plan. One record contains current semester report cards and/or progress reports. The other resident has not been in school long enough for a semester report card and/or progress report. Residents reported that they are provided with a sufficient amount of daily educational stimulation away from school and feel that the Group Home is supportive of their academic progress.

The Agency's program includes the development of residents' daily living skills. The residents are involved in the planning and preparation phase of meals. Hygiene care is discussed as needed and employment preparation encouraged.

Residents are offered the opportunity to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

The residents are not employed.

Recommendation

- 2. Masada Homes management maintain current Individualized Education Plans for residents requiring one.**

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The Agency provides its residents opportunities to participate in recreational activities. The residents expressed satisfaction with the recreational activities and stated that the recreation schedules are followed.

The Group Home utilizes local community organizations for recreational and program resources. The residents report that they participate in planning some of the activities. The residents have free time and are able to participate in self-selected activities.

Transportation is provided to and from the activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

According to the Agency's management, there are no residents receiving psychotropic medication. This information was appropriately documented.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment – Resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The residents expressed satisfaction with the Agency and its staff. Residents participate in an initial orientation and the Group Home's policies and procedures are posted. Residents reported that they feel safe in the Group Home and that there is no interference with their daily living functions.

Residents were satisfied with the taste of the food and with their ability to participate in menu development. They reported that there is sufficient staff supervision and expressed satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff. Residents feel there is at least one staff member they can easily talk to and trust.

Residents reported that they are assigned chores to complete on a daily basis that are reasonable and not too demanding. Residents are able to have visitors and to make and receive personal telephone calls. They are permitted to contact their workers, attorneys, and family members as needed. Residents are able to attend weekly religious services of their choice and feel that the Agency is respectful of their cultural lifestyles. The Agency allows the residents to celebrate holidays.

Residents reported that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Residents are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The Agency provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. The Group Home supplies its residents with the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance. Clothing provided to the residents is of good quality and of sufficient quantity. However, one resident has not been given the opportunity to select his own clothes.

The Agency provides residents with the required minimum base allowance, and they are able to increase according to the Agency's behavioral system. Residents are able to increase their allowance according to the Agency's behavioral system. Residents are permitted to spend their allowances as they choose.

The Agency provides residents with adequate personal care items and adequate storage.

Residents are not provided with regular opportunities to maintain photo album/life books.

Recommendations

3. Masada Homes management:

- a. **Allow residents to choose their own clothes.**
- b. **Provide all residents with regular opportunities to maintain photo albums/life books.**

**Counseling and Research-Masada Homes
Newell House
4740 152nd Street
Los Angeles, CA 90260
Phone: (310) 328-4813
License No.: 198201957
Rate Classification Level: 12**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Sample size for resident interviews: One

Comments:

Newell Group Home is a large home located in a quiet residential community. The Group Home is clean, spacious, and comfortable. The Group Home is well maintained, nicely landscaped, and blends well with the other homes on the block. There were no observable safety hazards.

The interior of the Group Home is generally neat and clean. The décor provides a home-like atmosphere. The common rooms are nicely decorated. The resident bedrooms are spacious, comfortable, and personalized to each child's desire with posters, pictures, and knick-knacks. However, in one bedroom there is writing and deep scratch marks on the dresser drawers.

The Group Home maintains age-appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a VCR/DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

There is a sufficient supply of frozen food, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit. The food is accessible, appropriately dated, and properly stored.

Recommendation

- 1. Masada Homes management repair/replace dresser drawers in the resident bedroom.**

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: One

Comments:

The residents meet the Agency's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Residents received a complete initial diagnostic assessment after being admitted into the Agency's program.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) are current, realistic, measurable, and time specific. There is documentation to support the placement workers' participation in the development and update of the NSPs.

The quarterly report for one resident is current, comprehensive, and appropriately focused on the goals of the NSP. The other resident has not been in the Group Home long enough to require a quarterly report.

The residents are provided with psychological testing, emotional and developmental counseling as required by the Program Statement. Case files reflect adequate documentation to show evidence of residents receiving regular individual and/or group therapy.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews****Sample size for resident interviews: One****Comments:**

The residents are attending school. Their records contain current report cards and/or progress reports. The resident reported that they are provided with a sufficient amount of daily educational stimulation away from school and feels that the Group Home is supportive of his academic progress.

The Agency's program includes the development of residents' daily living skills. The residents are involved in the planning and preparation phase of meals. Hygiene care is discussed as needed and employment preparation encouraged.

Residents are offered the opportunity to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

The residents are not employed.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: One

Comments:

The Agency provides its residents opportunities to participate in recreational activities. The residents expressed satisfaction with the recreational activities and stated that the recreation schedules are followed.

The Group Home utilizes local community organizations for recreational and program resources. The resident report that the participates in planning some of the activities. The resident have free time and are able to participate in self-selected activities.

Transportation is provided to and from the activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents for one case file

Comments:

The resident has a current court authorization for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that the child is routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Medication distribution logs are not properly maintained.

Recommendation

- 2. Masada Homes management properly maintain the medication distribution logs.**

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment – Resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: One

(Only one resident was available for the interview process)

Comments:

The interviewed resident expressed satisfaction with the Agency and its staff. The resident participated in an initial orientation and the Group Home's policies and procedures are posted. The resident reported that there is no interference with his daily living functions. However, the resident reported that he does not feel safe in the Group Home because there are residents who are released from the Group Home that come back and break in and steal things. This was discussed with the Group Home's representative who stated that they are aware of the problem and are working to resolve the issue.

The resident reported satisfaction with the taste of the food and with his ability to participate in menu development. He reported that there is sufficient staff supervision and expressed satisfaction with the quality of his interaction with staff. The resident feels there was at least one staff member he can easily talk to and trust.

The resident reported that he is assigned chores to complete on a daily basis that are reasonable and not too demanding. The resident is able to have visitors and to make and receive personal telephone calls. He is permitted to contact his probation officer, attorney, and family members as needed. The resident is able to attend weekly religious services of his choice and feels that the Agency is respectful of his cultural lifestyle. The Agency allows the resident to celebrate holidays.

The resident reported that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

The resident is aware of his right to refuse medication.

Recommendation

- 3. Masada Homes management provide residents with a safe and secure environment.**

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interview

Sample size for resident interviews: One

Comments:

The Agency provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. The Group Home supplies its residents with the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance. The resident is given the opportunity to select some of his own clothes. Clothing provided to the residents is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Agency provides the resident with the required minimum base allowance, which he is able to increase according to the Agency's behavioral system. The resident is permitted to spend his allowance as he chooses.

The Agency provides residents with adequate personal care items and adequate storage.

The resident is not provided with opportunities to maintain a photo album/life book.

Recommendation

- 4. Masada Homes management provide each resident with regular opportunities to maintain photo album/life books.**

Counseling & Research Associates - Masada Homes
Orleans House
973 21st Street
San Pedro, CA 90731
Phone: (310) 328-4813
License No.: 198200763
Rate Classification Level: 12

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Orleans Group Home is a large home located on a quiet residential community. The Group Home is clean, spacious, and comfortable. The Group Home is well maintained, nicely landscaped, and blends well with the other homes on the block. There were no observable safety hazards.

The interior of the Group Home is generally neat and clean. The décor provides a home-like atmosphere. The common rooms are nicely decorated and maintained. The resident bedrooms are spacious, comfortable, and personalized to each child's desire with posters, pictures, and knick-knacks.

The Group Home maintains age-appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a VCR/DVD player. There are books and resource materials. However, there is no computer accessible for the residents' use.

There is a sufficient supply of frozen food, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit. The food is accessible, appropriately dated, and properly stored.

Recommendation

- 1. Masada Homes management provide a computer for the residents' use.**

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The residents meet the Agency's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Residents received a complete initial diagnostic assessment after being admitted into the Agency's program.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) are current, realistic, measurable, and time specific. However, there was no documentation to support the placement workers' participation in the development and update of the NSPs.

The quarterly report for one resident is current, comprehensive, and appropriately focused on the goals of the NSP. The other resident has not been in the Group Home long enough to require a quarterly report.

The residents are provided with psychological testing, and emotional and developmental counseling as required by the Program Statement. Case files reflect adequate documentation to show evidence of residents receiving regular individual and/or group therapy.

Recommendation

2. **Masada Homes management provide documentation to show the placement workers' participation in the development and update of the Needs and Services Plans.**

III. Educational and Emancipation Services**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews****Sample size for resident interviews: Two****Comments:**

One resident attends special education classes at a local school. The resident requires and has a current Individualized Education Plan. The other resident is not yet enrolled in school. However, the Group Home is working with the school district to determine the most appropriate school placement for the resident. Their efforts are appropriately documented. Residents' records did not contain current report cards and/or progress reports. Residents reported that they are provided with a sufficient amount of daily educational stimulation away from school and feel that the Group Home is supportive of their academic progress.

The Agency's program includes the development of residents' daily living skills. The residents are involved in the planning and preparation phase of meals. Hygiene care is discussed as needed and employment preparation encouraged.

Residents are offered the opportunity to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

The residents are not employed.

Recommendation

- 3. Masada Homes management maintain current report cards and/or progress reports for each resident.**

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The Agency provides its residents with opportunities to participate in recreational activities. The residents expressed satisfaction with the recreational activities and stated that the recreation schedules are followed.

The Group Home utilizes local community organizations for recreational and program resources. One resident participates in the planning of some of the activities. The other resident reported that he does not participate in the planning of activities. The residents have free time and are able to participate in self-selected activities.

Transportation is provided to and from the activities.

Recommendation

- 4. Masada Homes management provide all residents with the opportunity to participate in the planning of some activities.**

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents for two case files

Comments:

The residents have current court authorizations for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that the children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Medication distribution logs are not properly maintained.

Recommendation

5. Masada Homes management properly maintain medication distribution logs.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment – Resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The residents expressed satisfaction with the Agency and its staff. Residents participate in an initial orientation and the Group Home's policies and procedures are posted. Residents reported that they feel safe in the Group Home and that there is no interference with their daily living functions.

Residents were satisfied with the taste of the food and with their ability to participate in menu development. They reported that there is sufficient staff supervision and expressed satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff. Residents feel there was at least one staff member they can easily talk to and trust.

One resident reported that he is assigned chores to complete on a daily basis that are reasonable and not too demanding. The other resident reported that he is required to perform the same chore every week. Residents are able to have visitors and to make and receive personal telephone calls. They are permitted to contact their workers, attorneys, and family members as needed. Residents are able to attend weekly religious services of their choice, and they feel that the Agency is respectful of their cultural lifestyles. The Agency allows the residents to celebrate holidays.

Residents reported that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Residents are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Recommendation

6. Masada Homes management provide all residents with a variety of chores that are reasonable and fair.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The Agency provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. The Group Home supplies its residents with the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance. Clothing provided to the residents is of good quality and of sufficient quantity. However, the residents are not given the opportunity to select their own clothes.

The Agency does not provide residents with the required minimum base allowance. However, residents are able to increase their allowance according to the Agency's behavioral system. Residents are permitted to spend their allowances as they choose.

The Agency provides residents with adequate personal care items and adequate storage.

Residents are not provided with regular opportunities to maintain photo albums/life books.

Recommendations

7. Masada Homes management:

- a. Allow residents to choose their own clothes.**
- b. Provide residents with the minimum base allowance.**
- c. Provide residents with regular opportunities to maintain photo albums/life book.**

**Counseling & Research Associates - Masada Homes
Penn House
23610 Pennsylvania Ave.
Torrance, CA 90501
Phone: (310) 328-4813
License No.: 191601787
Rate Classification Level: 12**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Penn Group Home is a large home located on a quiet residential community. The Group Home is clean, spacious, and comfortable. The Group Home is well maintained, nicely landscaped, and blends well with the other homes on the block. There were no observable safety hazards.

The interior of the Group Home is generally neat and clean. The décor provides a home-like atmosphere. The common rooms are nicely decorated and maintained. The resident bedrooms are spacious, comfortable, and personalized to each child's desire with posters, pictures, and knick-knacks. However, there is writing on the outside closet door in bedroom number one.

The Group Home maintains age-appropriate and accessible outdoor recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a VCR/DVD player. There are books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs.

There is a sufficient supply of frozen food, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit. The food is accessible, appropriately dated, and properly stored.

Recommendation

- 1. Masada Homes management remove the writing from the closet door in bedroom number one.**

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The residents meet the Agency's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Residents received a complete initial diagnostic assessment after being admitted into the Agency's program.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) are current, realistic, measurable, and time specific. However, there was no documentation to support one placement worker's participation in the development and update of the NSP.

The quarterly report for one resident is current, comprehensive, and appropriately focused on the goals of the NSP. The other resident has not been in the Group Home long enough to require a quarterly report.

The residents are provided with psychological testing, and emotional and developmental counseling as required by the Program Statement. Case files reflect adequate documentation to show evidence of residents receiving regular individual and/or group therapy.

Recommendation

2. Masada Homes management provide documentation to show each placement worker's participation in the development and update of the Needs and Services Plans.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews****Sample size for resident interviews: Two****Comments:**

Both residents are attending school. One resident has a current Individualized Education Plan, but the other resident does not. One record contains current semester report cards and/or progress reports. The other resident has not been in school long enough to receive a semester report card and/or progress report. Residents reported that they are provided with a sufficient amount of daily educational stimulation away from school and feel that the Group Home is supportive of their academic progress.

The Agency's program includes the development of residents' daily living skills. The residents are involved in the planning and preparation phase of meals. Hygiene care is discussed as needed and employment preparation encouraged.

Residents are offered the opportunity to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

The residents are not employed.

Recommendation

3. Masada Homes management maintain current Individualized Education Plans for each resident requiring one.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The Agency provides its residents opportunities to participate in recreational activities. The residents expressed satisfaction with the recreational activities and stated that the recreation schedules are followed.

The Group Home utilizes local community organizations for recreational and program resources. The residents reported that they participate in the planning of some of the activities. The residents have free time and are able to participate in self-selected activities.

Transportation is provided to and from the activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

According to the Agency's management, there are no residents receiving psychotropic medications. This information was appropriately documented.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment – Resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The residents expressed satisfaction with the Agency and its staff. Residents participate in an initial orientation and the Group Home's policies and procedures are posted. Residents reported that they feel safe in the Group Home and that there is no interference with their daily living functions.

Residents were satisfied with the taste of the food and with their ability to participate in menu development. They reported that there is sufficient staff supervision and express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff. Residents feel there was at least one staff member they can easily talk to and trust.

One resident reported that he is assigned chores to complete on a daily basis that are reasonable and not too demanding. The other resident reported that he is required to perform the same chore every week. Residents are able to have visitors and to make and receive personal telephone calls. They are permitted to contact their workers, attorneys, and family members as needed. Residents are able to attend weekly religious services of their choice, and they feel that the Agency is respectful of their cultural lifestyles. The Agency allows the residents to celebrate holidays.

Residents reported that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Residents are aware of their right to refuse medication. However, one resident reported that he has been refused dental treatment for several weeks. This was discussed with the Agency's Director who stated that a dental appointment would be scheduled for the resident as soon as possible.

Recommendations

4. Masada Homes management:

- a. Provide all residents with a variety of chores that are reasonable and fair.**
- b. Provide each resident with dental and/or medical services in a timely manner.**

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The Agency provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. The Group Home supplies its residents with the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance. Clothing provided to the residents is of good quality and of sufficient quantity. However, the residents are not given the opportunity to select their own clothes.

The Agency does not provide residents with the required minimum base allowance. However, residents are able to increase their allowance according to the Agency's behavioral system. Residents are permitted to spend their allowances as they choose.

The Agency provides residents with adequate personal care items and adequate storage.

Residents are not provided with opportunities to maintain photo albums/life books.

Recommendations

5. Masada Homes management:

- a. Allow residents to choose their own clothes.**
- b. Provide residents with the minimum base allowance.**
- c. Provide residents with regular opportunities to maintain photo albums/life books.**

Counseling & Research Associates - Masada Homes
619 North Prospect
Redondo Beach, CA 90277
Phone: (310) 328-4813
License No.: 191600997
Rate Classification Level: 12

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The Prospect Group Home is a large home located in a quiet residential community. The Group Home is clean, spacious, and comfortable. The Group Home is well maintained, nicely landscaped, and blends well with the other homes on the block. There were no observable safety hazards.

The interior of the Group Home is generally neat and clean. The décor provides a home-like atmosphere. The common rooms are nicely decorated and maintained. The resident bedrooms are spacious, comfortable, and personalized to each child's desire, with posters, pictures, and knick-knacks. However, the beds do not have bottom fitted sheets.

The Group Home maintains age-appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a VCR/DVD player. There are books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs.

There is a sufficient supply of frozen food, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit. The food is accessible, appropriately dated, and properly stored.

Recommendation

- 1. Masada Homes management provide a full complement linens for each resident's bed.**

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The residents meet the Agency's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Residents received a complete initial diagnostic assessment after being admitted into the Agency's program.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) are current, realistic, measurable, and time specific. There is documentation to support the placement workers' participation in the development and update of the NSPs.

The quarterly reports are current, comprehensive, and appropriately focus on the goals of the NSPs.

The residents are provided with psychological testing, emotional and developmental counseling as required by the Program Statement. Case files reflect adequate documentation to show evidence of residents receiving regular individual and/or group therapy.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

One resident is attending school. The other resident has already graduated from high school. Their records do not contain current report cards and/or progress reports. The residents reported that they are not provided with a sufficient amount of daily educational stimulation away from school.

The Agency's program includes the development of residents' daily living skills. The residents are involved in the planning and preparation phase of meals. Hygiene care is discussed as needed.

Residents are offered the opportunity to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

The residents are not employed.

Recommendations

2. Masada Homes management:

- a. **Maintain current report cards and/or progress reports for each resident.**
- b. **Provide residents with a sufficient amount of daily educational stimulation as required by the Statement of Work.**

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The Agency provides its residents opportunities to participate in recreational activities. The residents expressed satisfaction with the recreational activities and stated that the recreation schedules are followed.

The Group Home utilizes local community organizations for recreational and program resources. The residents reported that they participate in planning some of the activities. The residents have free time and are able to participate in self-selected activities.

Transportation is provided to and from the activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

According to the Agency's management, there are no residents receiving psychotropic medications. This information was appropriately documented.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment – Resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The residents expressed satisfaction with the Agency and its staff. Residents participate in an initial orientation and the Group Home's policies and procedures are posted. Residents reported that they feel safe in the Group Home and that there is no interference with their daily living functions.

Residents were satisfied with the taste of the food and with their ability to participate in menu development. They reported that there is sufficient staff supervision and expressed satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff. Residents feel there is at least one staff member they can easily talk to and trust.

Residents reported that they are assigned chores to complete on a daily basis that are reasonable and not too demanding. Residents are able to have visitors and to make and receive personal telephone calls. They are permitted to contact their workers, attorneys, and family members as needed. Residents are able to attend weekly religious services of their choice and feel that the Agency is respectful of their cultural lifestyles. The Agency allows the residents to celebrate holidays.

Residents reported that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Residents are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The Agency provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. The Group Home supplies its residents with the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance. Clothing provided to the residents is of good quality and of sufficient quantity. However, the residents are not given the opportunity to select their own clothes.

The Agency does not provide residents with the required minimum base allowance. However, residents are able to increase their allowance according to the Agency's behavioral system. Residents are permitted to spend their allowances as they choose.

The Agency provides residents with adequate personal care items and adequate storage.

Residents are not provided with regular opportunities to maintain photo albums/life books.

Recommendations

3. Masada Homes management:

- a. Allow residents to choose their own clothes.**
- b. Provide residents with the minimum base allowance.**
- c. Provide residents with regular opportunities to maintain photo albums/life books.**

**Counseling & Research Associates - Masada Homes
Ralston House
2312 Ralston Lane
Redondo Beach, CA 90278
Phone: (310) 328-4813
License No.: 191601785
Rate Classification Level: 12**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The Ralston Group Home is a large home located on a quiet residential community. The Group Home is clean, spacious, and comfortable. The Group Home is well maintained, nicely landscaped, and blends well with the other homes on the block. There were no observable safety hazards noted.

The interior of the Group Home is generally neat and clean. The décor provides a home-like atmosphere. The common rooms are nicely decorated and maintained. The resident bedrooms are spacious, comfortable, and personalized to each child's desire with posters, pictures, and knick-knacks.

The Group Home maintains age-appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a VCR/DVD player. There are books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs.

There is a sufficient supply of frozen food, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit. The food is accessible, appropriately dated, and properly stored.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The residents meet the Agency's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. One resident received a complete initial diagnostic assessment after being admitted into the Agency's program, the other resident did not.

The Needs and Services Plan (NSP) for one of the residents was current, realistic, measurable, and time specific. There was documentation to support the placement worker's participation in the development and update of the NSP. The other resident did not have a current NSP.

Neither resident has been in the Group Home long enough to require a quarterly report.

The residents are provided with psychological testing, emotional and developmental counseling as required by the Program Statement. Case files reflect adequate documentation to show evidence of residents receiving regular individual and/or group therapy.

Recommendations**1. Masada Homes management:**

- a. Provide each resident with a complete initial diagnostic assessment within 30 days of being admitted into the Agency's program.
- b. Maintain current Needs and Services Plans for each resident.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The residents are attending school. Neither resident has been in the current school for their records to contain current report cards and/or progress reports. Residents reported that they are not provided with a sufficient amount of daily educational stimulation away from school and do not feel that the Group Home is supportive of their academic progress.

The Agency's program includes the development of residents' daily living skills. The residents are involved in the planning and preparation phase of meals. Hygiene care is discussed as needed.

Residents are offered the opportunity to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

The residents are not employed.

Recommendation

2. Masada Homes management provide residents with a sufficient amount of daily educational stimulation as required by the Statement of Work.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The Agency provides its residents opportunities to participate in recreational activities. The residents expressed satisfaction with the recreational activities and stated that the recreation schedules are followed.

The Group Home utilizes local community organizations for recreational and program resources. One resident participates in the planning of some of the activities. The other resident reported that he does not participate in the planning of activities. The residents have free time and are able to participate in self-selected activities.

Transportation is provided to and from the activities.

Recommendation

3. Masada Homes management provide each resident with the opportunity to participate in the planning of activities.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents one case file

Comments:

The resident has a current court authorization for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that the child is routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Medication distribution logs are not properly maintained.

Recommendation

- 4. Masada Homes management properly maintain medication distribution logs.**

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment – Resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The residents expressed satisfaction with the Agency and its staff. Residents participate in an initial orientation and the Group Home's policies and procedures are posted. Residents reported that they feel safe in the Group Home and that there is no interference with their daily living functions.

Residents were satisfied with the taste of the food and with their ability to participate in menu development. They reported that there is sufficient staff supervision and expressed satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff. Residents feel there was at least one staff member they can easily talk to and trust.

Residents reported that they are assigned chores to complete on a daily basis that are reasonable and not too demanding. Residents are able to have visitors and to make and receive personal telephone calls. They are permitted to contact their workers, attorneys, and family members as needed. Residents are able to attend weekly religious services of their choice and feel that the Agency is respectful of their cultural lifestyles. The Agency allows residents to celebrate holidays.

Residents reported that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Residents are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The Agency provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. The Group Home supplies its residents with the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance. Clothing provided to the residents is of good quality and of sufficient quantity. However, the residents are not given the opportunity to select their own clothes.

The Agency does not provide residents with the required minimum base allowance. However, residents are able to increase their allowance according to the Agency's behavioral system. Residents are permitted to spend their allowances as they choose.

The Agency provides residents with adequate personal care items and adequate storage.

Residents are not provided with regular opportunities to maintain photo albums/life books.

Recommendations

5. Masada Homes management:

- a. Allow residents to choose their own clothes.**
- b. Provide residents with the minimum base allowance.**
- c. Provide residents with regular opportunities to maintain photo albums/life books.**

**Counseling & Research Associates - Masada Homes
South Shores House
2120 S. Paseo Del Mar
San Pedro, CA 90732
Phone: (310) 328-4813
License No.: 198200760
Rate Classification Level: 12**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

South Shores Group Home is a large home located on a quiet residential community. The Group Home is clean, spacious, and comfortable. The Group Home is nicely landscaped, and blends well with the other homes on the block. There were no observable safety hazards.

The interior of the Group Home is generally neat and clean. The décor provides a home-like atmosphere. The common rooms are nicely decorated. The resident bedrooms are spacious, comfortable, and personalized to each child's desire with posters, pictures, and knick-knacks. However, the downstairs bathroom sink has no running water.

The Group Home maintains age-appropriate and accessible outdoor recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a VCR/DVD player. There are books and resource materials. However, there is no computer accessible for the residents' use.

There is a sufficient supply of frozen food, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit. The food is accessible, appropriately dated, and properly stored.

Recommendations

1. Masada Homes management:

- a. Repair the plumbing in the downstairs bathroom sink.**
- b. Provide a computer for the residents' use.**

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The residents meet the Agency's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Residents received a complete initial diagnostic assessment after being admitted into the Agency's program.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) are current, realistic, measurable, and time specific. However, there was no documentation to support the placement workers' participation in the development and update of the NSPs.

The quarterly report for one resident is current, comprehensive, and appropriately focused on the goals of the NSP. The other resident has not been in the Group Home long enough to require a quarterly report.

The residents are provided with psychological testing, and emotional and developmental counseling as required by the Program Statement. Case files reflect adequate documentation to show evidence of residents receiving regular individual and/or group therapy.

Recommendation

- 2. Masada Homes management provide documentation to show the placement workers' participation in the development and update of the Needs and Services Plans.**

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The residents are attending school. One record contained current report cards and/or progress reports, but the other record did not. Residents reported that they are not provided with a sufficient amount of daily educational stimulation away from school and do not feel that the Group Home is supportive of their academic progress.

The Agency's program includes the development of residents' daily living skills. The residents are involved in the planning and preparation phase of meals. Hygiene care is discussed as needed and employment preparation encouraged.

Residents are offered the opportunity to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

The residents are not employed.

Recommendations

3. Masada Homes management:

- a. **Maintain current report cards and/or progress reports for each resident.**
- b. **Provide residents with a sufficient amount of daily educational stimulation as required by the Statement of Work.**

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The Agency provides its residents opportunities to participate in recreational activities. However, the residents expressed dissatisfaction with the recreational activities and stated that the recreation schedules are not followed. One resident reported that he is not allowed to participate in many recreational activities.

The Group Home utilizes local community organizations for recreational and program resources. However, the residents reported that they do not participate in the planning of some of the activities. The residents have free time and are able to participate in some self-selected activities.

Transportation is provided to and from the activities.

Recommendations

4. Masada Homes management:

- a. **Ensure that the recreation schedule is followed.**

- b. Provide residents with age appropriate and adequate recreational activities.
- c. Provide residents with the opportunity to participate in the planning of activities.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents for one case file

Comments:

The resident has a current court authorization for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that the child is routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Medication distribution logs are not properly maintained.

Recommendation

- 5. Masada Home management properly maintain medication distribution logs.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment – Resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

One resident expressed satisfaction with the Agency and its staff. The other resident expressed dissatisfaction with the houseparent. The resident stated that the houseparent is very difficult to deal with and does not treat him with respect. This was discussed with the Group Home representative who stated that the matter would be addressed with the Director and houseparent. Residents participate in an initial orientation and the Group Home's policies and procedures are posted. Residents reported that they feel safe in the Group Home and that there is no interference with their daily living functions.

Residents were satisfied with the taste of the food and with their ability to participate in menu development. They reported that there is sufficient staff supervision and expressed satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with most staff. Residents feel there is at least one staff member they can easily talk to and trust.

One resident reported that he is assigned chores to complete on a daily basis that are reasonable and not too demanding. The other resident reported that he has been required to do the same chore for the past five weeks, and does not feel that this is fair.

Residents are able to have visitors and to make and receive personal telephone calls. They are permitted to contact their workers, attorneys, and family members as needed. Residents are able to attend weekly religious services of their choice and feel that the Agency is respectful of their cultural lifestyles. The Agency allows the residents to celebrate holidays.

Residents reported that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Residents are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Recommendations

6. Masada Homes management:

- a. Provide each resident with a variety of chores that are reasonable and fair.**
- b. Ensure that staff treat each resident with respect and dignity and monitor their interactions.**

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The Agency provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. The Group Home supplies its residents with the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance. Clothing provided to the residents is of good quality and of sufficient quantity. However, the residents are not given the opportunity to select their own clothes.

The Agency does not provide residents with the required minimum base allowance. However, residents are able to increase their allowance according to the Agency's behavioral system. Residents are permitted to spend their allowances as they choose.

The Agency provides residents with adequate personal care items and adequate storage.

Residents are not provided with regular opportunities to maintain photo albums/life books.

Recommendations

7. Masada Homes management:

- a. Allow residents to choose their own clothes.**
- b. Provide residents with the minimum base allowance.**
- c. Provide residents with regular opportunities to maintain photo albums/life books.**